

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 NEA-02 ISO-00 IO-02 /009 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/NM:SBVANCE:SCT

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

IO/HDC:JBUCZACKI

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P 051852Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028423

FOL RPT MOSCOW 01247 ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA

MEXICO CITY PARIS 28 JAN.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1247

EOMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UR,

SUBJ: PRESIDENCY OF UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

REF: STATE 17503 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. E. A. BABAYAN, WHO WILL AGAIN HEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING CND SESSION, TOLD EMBOFFS ON JANUARY 27 THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD "NOT OPPOSE" THE MEXICAN CANDIDACY FOR THE CND CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE FORTHCOMING SESSION, PROVIDED THAT MOSCOW MAINTAINED ITS POSITION AS FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN AND WAS ASSURED OF MOVING UP TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP AT THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION. END SUMMARY.

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2. EMBOFFS CALLED ON BABAYAN, CHIEF, ADMINISTRATION FOR

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DRUGS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT,
AND E.P. SVIRIDOV, MFA, SECOND SECRETARY TO AKS ABOUT
SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO STEP ASIDE AND SUPPORT THE MEXICAN
CANDIDATE FOR THE CND CHAIRMANSHIP IN
THE FORTHCOMING SESSION (REFTEL).

3. BABAYAN, WHO DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MOSCOW HAD MADE
ANY PLEDGE TO THE MEXICANS, SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION
"WOULD NOT OBJECT" TO HAVING THE MEXICANS ASSUME THE CHAIR-
MANSHIP "IF THIS IS THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY." BABAYAN
THEN DIVERGED INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE "LONG-RECOGNIZED"
STEP-BY-STEP SUCCESSION PROCEDURE OF CND OFFICERS. WHILE
NOTING THAT ILLNESSES IN RECENT YEARS HAD FORCED
SUBSTITUTIONS, HE COMMENTED THAT UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS
THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE ELECTIVE ISSUE, THAT OF THE
RAPPORTEUR, SINCE THE OTHERS ARE FILLED AUTOMATICALLY FROM
BELOW.

4. HE THEN EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE FORTHCOMING MEETING WAS
A "SPECIAL SESSION," IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO VARY THE
PROCEDURE TO ALLOW THE MEXICAN CANDIDATE TO PRESIDE
WITHOUT CHANGING THE PATTERN FOR THE REGULAR SESSION
SCHEDULED FOR 1977. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION, SVIRIDOV CLARIFIED
THAT THE SOVIET POSITION OF "NOT OPPOSING" THE MEXICAN
CANDIDACY WAS CONDITIONED ON TWO POINTS: THAT THE MAJORITY
AGREES TO SUPPORT MEXICO, AND THAT THE SOVIETS RETAIN THE
FIRST VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP FOR THIS SESSION WITH A GUARANTEE
OF ASSUMING THE CHAIRMANSHIP AT THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION.
THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT, UNDER REPEATED QUESTIONING, CONFIRM
THAT THEY WOULD "ACTIVELY SUPPORT" THE MEXICAN CANDIDACY,
BUT CAME BACK TO THE FORMULA THAT THEY WOULD "NOT OPPOSE"
IT UNDER THE TERMS THEY GAVE. SVIRIDOV SAID THAT THE ME-
XICANS HAD BEEN GIVEN THE SAME ANSWER.

5. SVIRIDOV ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. POSITION WAS TO SUPPORT
THE MEXICAN CANDIDACY. EMBOFFS REPLIED THAT THE U.S.
WISHED TO FIND OUT THE SOVIET VIEW AND THAT OUR DECISION
WOULD TAKE THAT VIEW INTO ACCOUNT. EMBOFFS DID NOT
ELABORATE FURTHER BUT INDICATED THAT THE U.S. FAVORED A CON-
SENSUS.

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6. SVIRIDOV COMMENTED THAT BABAYAN WAS HIMSELF THE PERSON
MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED, SINCE HE WOULD AGAIN LEAD THE
SOVIET DELEGATION TO GENEVA. SVIRIDOV SAID THAT HE WOULD
ALSO BE GOING AS A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION. THE SOVIETS
SAID THAT THEY PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO GENEVA ON FEBRUARY 14,
AND LOOKED FORWARD TO DEALING WITH THE "MUCH LARGER"
U.S. DELEGATION THERE.

STOESSEL

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, DRUG CONTROL, MEETING CHAIRMAN, ELECTION CANDIDATES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE028423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SBVANCE:SCT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0194
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760278/aaaacqed.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 17503
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENCY OF UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS
TAGS: SNAR, UR, MX, US
To: OTTAWA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006